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*Second Meeting, Monday, November 23rd, 1857.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Professor W. Haiderger, Kt., President of the Imperial Geographical Society, and Director of the Geological Institute of Vienna; and General Alberto Della Marmora, author of the Great Map of Sardinia, as Honorary Members:—and Thomas Baines, artist to the late North Australian Expedition; Septimus Beardmore; Wollaston Blake; Cheyne Brady; James Brant, Her Majesty's consul at Damascus; William Camps, M.D.; Lieut.-General Cannon; Captain R. Coote, R.N.; the Hon. C. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P.; Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Grant; Kirkman D. Hodgson, M.P.; Henry Holroyd; Richard Jefferson; Gottfried Kinkel, PHIL. DR.; G. B. C. Leverton; Captain F. Liardet, R.N.; William Loch; Matthew H. Marsh, M.P.; Rev. Allen P. Moor, M.A.; Captain J. Moore, R.N.; the Hon. W. Napier; Captain A. Phillimore, R.N.; W. H. Sitwell; Captain J. H. Speke, of the East African Expedition; Robert Tait, and Professor Tennant, were elected Fellows.*

PRESENTATIONS.—The Rev. G. R. Gleig and Messrs. F. S. and W. H. Homfray were officially introduced upon their election.

DONATIONS.—Among the donations since the previous meeting were ‘Dr. Livingstone’s Travels in Africa,’ ‘Perez-Rosales’ Work on Chili,’ ‘Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the East India Company’s Observatory, Bombay,’ ‘Fullarton’s and Blackie’s Atlases,’ ‘Transactions of the Academy of Sciences of Paris and of the Royal Society of London,’ &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—A plan in relief of a portion of the Pyrenees, by the Rev. Pastor Frossard, of Bagnères-en-Bigorre; Native MS. map of Delhi; map of Cawnpur, by Captain Yule, F.R.G.S., of the Bengal Engineers; and Stanford’s map of Havelock’s campaigns, &c., were exhibited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The President read a letter which had been received by the Secretary, through Colonel Everest, from his friend Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Scott Waugh, Surveyor-General of India, returning thanks for the Society’s Gold Medal, which had been awarded him for the great Trigonometrical Survey of India.

10, Westbourne Street, Hyde Park,  
19th November, 1857.

SIR,—I send you some extracts of letters which I have recently received from Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Waugh, which I request the favour of you to lay before the Council as soon as may be convenient to you.

GEO. EVEREST.

To Dr. Norton Shaw, Sec. R. G. Society.

Surveyor-General's Field Office, Deha Dun,  
29th July, 1857.

MY DEAR COLONEL EVEREST,—I have this moment received your very kind letter of the 2nd June, announcing that the Royal Geographical Society have conferred on me their Gold Medal of the season, and as the most agreeable mode of transmitting it have selected you as their medium.

It is with great pride and gratification I thus learn that my geodetical labours in India have received this honourable mark of approbation from so distinguished and learned a Body as the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, and the pleasure I naturally feel on the occasion is doubled by my old and revered commander having been selected as the medium of transmission : for to your instruction and example I am proud to acknowledge that I owe whatever merit my labours may possess.

I am sure that this honourable distinction conferred on its present head will operate, if possible, as an additional stimulus to every member of the Survey Department to endeavour to merit the approbation of the Royal Geographical Society, by unremitting perseverance in their arduous labours.

I also feel that on an occasion like this it is necessary, with due regard to truth and justice, that I should publicly acknowledge that the merit is not entirely mine, and that although the medal has been conferred on the head of the Department, I ought to share the credit with several of its members, by whose zealous co-operation I have been enabled to effect so much. Major Tailyour, my late astronomical assistant, the friend of my early days, and my associate in so many wanderings and arduous labours ; also the late Mr. George Logan, 1st assistant ; Mr. J. Peyton, late chief civil assistant ; Mr. W. Scott, chief draftsman in the field, and Mr. James Mulheran ; all of whom, like myself, were trained up by you, have borne a large share in these interesting operations. Of those who have been trained by me in the principles laid down by yourself, I would also beg leave to enumerate Lieutenants J. Walker, J. Tennant, D. Nesmyth, T. G. Montgomerie, Mr. J. Hennessey, and Major Strange, to whose co-operation I am largely indebted.

Lieut. Montgomerie and Lieut. James Walker have especially distinguished themselves in the extension of our geographical researches on the north-western frontier, labours which, by bringing the accuracy of modern trigonometrical operations, depending on a known linear unit and point of departure, to bear on regions hitherto unexplored, or imperfectly known, have a peculiar interest and value. These officers possess remarkable talents for geographical research, as also Lieutenants Elliot Brownlow, and Bassevi, who have recently joined the department, and are now employed with Lieut. Montgomerie in that part of Tibet beyond Kashmir. In all these operations I should also again acknowledge the great assistance I have derived from Mr. W. Scott, chief draftsman, to whose vigilance, and that of Mr. J. Hennessey in detecting errors, I am greatly indebted.

I must also in justice express my warm acknowledgments to my worthy and talented deputy Major Thuillier, for his aid and co-operation in the anxious task of administering this widely extended department, and the cordial interest he has ever evinced in our geodetical labours.

Allow me, in conclusion, to beg one more favour at your hands. My wanderings in Indian jungles have little fitted me to address learned bodies, nor, surrounded as we are now by all the confusion of a military rebellion of unprecedented magnitude, do I feel that I could do justice to it, anxious as I am for the safety of our standards and records. Will you then do me the great favour to express my best thanks to the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society for the honour conferred on me, and the Great

Trigonometrical Survey of India, and believe me always very gratefully your affectionate attached friend,

(Signed)

A. S. WAUGH.

27th August, 1857.

I have a good paper on the stocks now, on the Himalaya Peaks, which, I think, will do for the Royal Geographical Society; but the unsettled state of the country, and the inundated state of the roads, make it hazardous to forward any valuable documents, while our own precarious position here is equally an objection the other way. I hope we shall be able to carry on our work without interruption. The Kashmir and Tibet Survey is progressing beautifully, and will make a lovely topographical map, which it will do your eyes good to behold. Montgomerie and Elliot Brownlow have just fixed two peaks on the Kara-Korum, one of which is 27,928 feet high, according to their field computations, its distance being 136 miles from our last stations. This would indicate the peak to be the 3rd highest yet measured. The Kashmir series has twice crossed the snowy range, with two stations each time on it. It is syonmetrical and double, and a noble achievement, worthy of your successors.

A. S. WAUGH.

The first Paper read was :—

1. *Progress of the British North American Expedition, under the command of Capt. JOHN PALLISER, F.R.G.S.*

Communicated by the Rt. Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., F.R.G.S., H. M.'s Secretary for the Colonies.

Sault Sainte Marie, 10th June, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honour to report my arrival here at 4 o'clock this morning.

We started from Liverpool in the Arabia steamer, which left England at 3 p.m., May 16th, and landed at New York at 6 p.m. on the 28th May.

Immediately on landing we experienced some difficulty with the Custom-house at New Jersey (*sic*), and subsequently \* were enabled to pass our instruments through, owing to the kind assistance of Mr. Pompelly of New York, whose acquaintance we casually made at our hotel next morning. Mr. Pompelly, aided by Mr. Wheatley, well known in the scientific world as an accomplished mineralogist, accompanied us on the 29th May to the Custom-house, and having explained the object of our expedition, and representing it as one directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, these gentlemen at length succeeded in accomplishing our object of passing the instruments, saddles, guns, &c., but not until they had called on the solicitor of the customs and conferred with the superintendent and

\* The American authorities had probably not been apprised of the expedition.  
—ED.